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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/676,347	09/29/2000	Michio Kobayashi	81754.0041	2194

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EXAMINER

STULBERGER, CAS P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2132

DATE MAILED: 08/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/676,347

Applicant(s)

KOBAYASHI, MICHIO

Examiner

Cas Stulberger

Art Unit

2132

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 3-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 3-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: application, filed 09/29/2000; amendment filed 05/31/2005.
2. Claims 3-26 are pending in the case. Claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled. Claims 3, and 14 are independent claims.

Response to Amendment

3. Applicant argues that Schumacher and Kuwano do not disclose “that the digital signature is affixed to the image data by a physically separate authentication station that is connected to the authentication apparatus only when authenticating data.” Schumacher however discloses a personal computer by which the authenticity of image data and event data are verified (Schumacher: column 5, lines 14-22). The personal computer meets the limitation of “that the digital signature is affixed to the image data by a physically separate authentication station that is connected to the authentication apparatus only when authenticating data” since the personal computer is physically separate from the digital camera.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,269,446 B1 to Schumacher et al. in view of U.S. Patent Application 2002/0059231 A1 Kuwano et al.

6. In regards to claims 1 and 3, Schumacher discloses authenticating images of digital cameras (Schumacher: Abstract). This meets the limitation of “data input means for entering data.” Schumacher also discloses authenticating an image from a digital camera with GPS-derived time and location data (Schumacher: Abstract). This meets the limitation of “authenticating information adding means for generating information authenticating that the data have been entered by the use of said data input means on the basis of information acquired from outside and adding the generated information to the entered data.” Schumacher discloses that the invention authenticates image data from digital cameras that have captured GPS-derived data as well as image data (Schumacher: column 2, lines 4-6). The serial number of the camera is included with the message digest which is used to verify the authenticity of the image data (Schumacher: column 2, lines 6-10, 22-25). This meets the limitation of “When the personal information entered by said personal information input means and the personal information of said personal information storing means satisfy a prescribed relationship, said authenticating information adding means further adds the personal information of said personal information storing means to the image data.” Schumacher however does not disclose “personal information input means for entering personal information wherein said personal information includes at least one of user ID information and password information and personal information storing means for storing personal information.”

7. Kuwano discloses user authentication by inputting the device ID of the device in which the user is registered as a user and user information composed of user ID and password (Kuwano: page 6, paragraph 0104). This meets the limitation of “personal information input means for entering personal information wherein said personal information includes at least one of user ID information and password information and personal information storing means for storing personal information.” Kuwano also discloses that the device ID is contained in said user ID information (Kuwano: page 7, paragraph 0114).

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the method of authenticating images from digital camera as disclosed by Schumacher with the method of entering the user ID and password as disclosed by Kuwano in order to identify the user who is attempting to have access to the image file forming the subject of access in order to control both read access and write access (Kuwano: page 1, paragraph 0015).

8. In regards to claims 2, 5, and 6, Schumacher discloses adding GPS derived location to the image data (Schumacher: Figure 4).

9. In regards to claims 4, Schumacher discloses adding the time at which the image was taken to the image data (Schumacher: Figure 4; Abstract).

10. In regards to claims 7, 8, and 26, Schumacher discloses including camera information such as serial number, size information, exposure information, and the like (Schumacher: Figure 4; column 2, lines 6-12). This meets the limitation of “adding personal information”

11. In regards to claims 9 and 10, Schumacher discloses a message digest is computed from a hashing function which takes the time, location, image, and camera information as inputs to the function (Schumacher: Figure 3-4 column 4, lines 39-46). This meets the limitation of “generating inspection information by means of a hash function.”

12. In regards to claims 11 and 12, Schumacher discloses encrypting the message digest with a private key. This meets the limitation of “encrypting the data containing the added authenticating information using a public key encryption method.”

13. In regards to claims 13, Schumacher discloses that the image data is stored on a memory medium where the information is verified (Schumacher: column 5, lines 14-17).

14. In regards to claims 14-20, Schumacher discloses forming a digital signature of GPS data including time and location and affixing it to the image data (Schumacher: Figure 3-4, column 4, lines 9-65) Schumacher also discloses encrypting the data with the private key and decrypting it with the public key (Schumacher: column 1, lines 40-44).

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15. In regards to claims 21-23, Schumacher discloses that a public key is obtained and used to decrypt the digital signature (Schumacher: column 5, lines 23-28). This meets the limitation of “receiving means by a public key.”

16. In regards to claim 24, Schumacher discloses image data (Schumacher: column 1, lines 66-67; column 2, lines 1-3).

17. In regards to claims 25, Schumacher discloses CCD sensors, which measure light intensity (Schumacher: column 3, lines 56-58).

Conclusion

18. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cas Stulberger whose telephone number is (571) 272-3810. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 9:00A.M. - 6:00P.M.

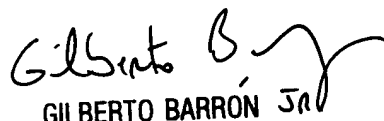
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on (571) 272-3810. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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